THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement
Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

William K. Wallach, M.A., associate director and archivist in the Bentley Historical Library, will retire from active faculty status on November 30, 2012.

Mr. Wallach received his B.A. degree from George Washington University in 1971 and his M.A. degree from the University of Minnesota in 1975. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as assistant director of the Bentley Historical Library in 1981. He was appointed associate archivist in 1983, and was promoted to archivist in 1988 and associate director in 2001.

His early work focused on the conceptualization and administration of a research fellowship program for archival professionals at the Bentley Library, funded with a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The program, which ran from 1983-97, enabled and encouraged the most creative minds in the archival and related professions to formulate and publish their ideas. It fostered systematic research on problems relating to archival management and the scholarly use of modern documentation. The program provided funding for 122 fellows who worked on 84 individual and team-based projects, and published more than 70 articles and monographs. The resulting research significantly enriched the extant body of archival literature relating to issues of the selection, use, understanding, and administration of contemporary records. More recently, Mr. Wallach has overseen the Bentley Library’s visiting researcher program, which provides grants to scholars with promising projects to conduct research at the Bentley Library. During the past 22 years, 175 scholars have benefited from this program, and many have gone on to publish their work. Several of these works have won major awards, including the Bancroft Prize, the National Book Award, and the Pulitzer Prize.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming William K. Wallach archivist emeritus.

Requested by:

Sally J. Churchill, J.D.
Vice President and Secretary of the University

November 2012